

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A system for managing ~~requests from~~ a set of connections between a plurality of clients for access to a set of resources and a plurality of servers based on system load, comprising:

a plurality of storage servers having the set of resources partitioned thereon, each server having

a load monitor process capable of communicating with other load monitor processes for generating a measure of system load, and a client load on each of the plurality of servers; and

a client distribution process, responsive to the system load, and capable of repartitioning the set of client connections for distributing client load by moving at least one client connection from a first server of the plurality of servers to a second server of the plurality of servers.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a load distribution process for determining resource loads when moving clients connections among servers.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a client allocation process for causing a client to communicate with a selected one of said plurality of servers.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a client allocation process for distributing incoming client requests across said plurality of servers.

6. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the client distribution process includes a round robin distribution process.
7. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the client distribution process includes a client redirection process.
8. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the client distribution process includes a disconnect process for dynamically disconnecting a client from a first server and reconnecting to a second server.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1, ~~further comprising: an adaptive client distribution process for distributing~~ wherein the client distribution process adaptively distributes clients connections across the plurality of servers as a function of dynamic variations in measured system load.
11. (Original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
  
a storage device for providing storage resources to the plurality of clients.
12. (Original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
  
a storage device for providing at least one volume of storage partitioned across the plurality of servers.
13. (Original) A storage area network, comprising:  
  
a plurality of servers each configured as a server of claim 1.